THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the CVC has recommended prosecution in respect of 265 Group 'A' Officers during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. Of these, 15 officers belong to Police Department and 31 officers belong to Revenue Department.

Funds for Maharashtra

2323. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds during 2004-05 for Maharashtra;

(b) the set of schemes for which the funds were provided; and

(c) the progress of the works under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The projected outlay for Annual Plan 2004-05 of Maharashtra is Rs. 9446.73 crore consisting of the State's Own Resources of Rs. 6195.80 crore and Central Assistance of Rs. 3250.93 crore. Of the Central Assistance of Rs. 3250.93 crore, Rs. 1108.02 crore is Normal Central Assistance; Rs. 680.28 crore is for Externally Aided Projects and the balance Rs. 1462.63 crore is for other specific schemes.

(b) The Normal Central Assistance to State Plans are provided as block loans and block grants and it is for the State Government to allocate the funds for various schemes as per their priorities, in consultation with the Planning Commission. However, the Government of Maharashtra has not yet submitted the detailed break-up of schemes and outlays for Annual Plan 2004-05 to the Planning Commission for its approval.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra has reported a total expenditure of Rs. 2405.15 crore up to November 19, 2004, during Annual Plan 2004-05.

National Committee on Rural Infrastructure

2324. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the responsibilities of the newly constituted National Committee on Rural Infrastructure; and

(b) the details and status of projects currently undertaken by this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The terms of reference to the Committee on Rural Infrastructure are:

(i) Initiating policies to ensure time-bound provision of quality infrastructure in rural areas,

(ii) Effecting internal prioritization within major sectors of rural infrastructure for maximizing efficiency and equity considerations,

(iii) Developing innovative financing arrangements for complementing public investment in these areas, and

(iv) Monitoring progress to ensure that targets set are achieved.

(b) The concerned Ministries/Departments have been asked by the Planning Commission to prepare presentations to the Committee covering sector-wise policy initiatives and action plans.

Evaluation of Centrally-Sponsored Schemes

2325. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to enforce compulsory evaluation of all Centrally-sponsored schemes, through external agencies to check against delays in implementation of projects and prevent schemes from being carried over from one five Year Plan to the next; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including guidelines evolved, if any, for hiring consultants and also timeframe fixed for undertaking the evaluation exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.